New Law to Regulate Contract Labour

1350. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new law to regulate, *inter-alia* the contract labour in Indian Industries is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the enactment of a new law;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new labour law would permit employment of women and child labour in factories and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what safeguards are proposed to be taken to prevent the exploitation female and child labour and ensure them protection against moral and material abandonment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) In the wake of economic liberalizaton as well as judgements of various courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors have not yet been finalised.

Declaration of Construction Work as Industry

1351. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction has been declared as industry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Welfare Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Service Conditions) Act, 1996 are implemented in all States; and

(c) whether the Advisory Committee or Welfare Boards have been constituted or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Construction activity has been notified under Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 as an 'industrial concern' with a view to enabling focused financing of this sector which is a significant activity under both housing and as a commercial entity.